

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 15 are presently pending. In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings and rejected Claims 1 – 4 and 11 – 15 under 35 U. S. C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Keyworth *et al.* ('472), hereinafter 'Keyworth'. Claims 5 – 7 were rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keyworth *et al.* in view of Johnston *et al.* ('391), hereinafter 'Johnston'. Claims 8 – 10 were rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keyworth in view of Kelsey *et al.* ('676), hereinafter 'Kelsey'.

By this Amendment, Applicants have addressed the objections to the Drawings, specifically the deletion of reference characters 54, 56 and 60, amended the limitations of Claim 12 into Claim 11 and canceled Claim 12. For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject application properly presents Claims patentable over the prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

The invention is set forth in claims of varying scope of which Claim 1 is illustrative. Claim 1 recites:

1. A system for facilitating message notification for an electronic communication device comprising:

first means for organizing individual messages received via said electronic communication device according to individual users of said device and providing a signal in response thereto and

second means for automatically enabling said individual users to **visually distinguish said individual messages** based on said signal. (Emphasis added.)

None of the references, taken alone or in combination, teach, disclose or suggest the invention as presently claimed. That is, none of the references teaches or suggests a system for facilitating message notification for an electronic device having

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please accept the attached Replacement Sheet with the deletion of the reference characters 54, 56 and 60 of Fig. 2.

means for automatically enabling users to **visually distinguish individual messages** as set forth in the present claims.

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner relied heavily on Keyworth. Keyworth purports to teach a group oriented communications user interface. The Examiner suggests that Keyworth teaches the first means and second means as claimed. Specifically, the Examiner suggests that Keyworth teaches second means for automatically enabling individual users to visually distinguish individual messages based on a signal. However, this interpretation is not supported by the reference.

That is, Keyworth does not teach a simultaneous display of messages received for multiple users. Hence, there is neither need nor means for allowing individual users to **visually distinguish individual messages**. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of Claims 1 – 4 and 11 – 15 under 35 U. S. C. § 102(b) are improper and should be withdrawn.

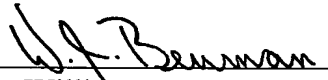
The shortcomings of Keyworth are not overcome by the teachings of Johnson and Kelsey. Johnston was cited for its teaching of a system for customizing the appearance and behavior of a desktop. Johnston does not teach or suggest a system for facilitating message notification for an electronic device having means for automatically enabling users to **visually distinguish individual messages** as presently claimed.

Kelsey was cited as teaching a system for detecting the presence of users within the vicinity of a system. However, Kelsey also does not teach or suggest a system for facilitating message notification for an electronic device having means for automatically enabling users to **visually distinguish individual messages** as presently claimed.

The references cited but not applied have been considered as well. None of the references, taken alone or in combination, teaches, discloses or suggests the invention as presently claimed.

Accordingly, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
D. A. Balluff

By 
William J. Benman
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 29,014

WJB/lc

Benman, Brown & Williams
2049 Century Park East
Suite 2740
Los Angeles, CA 90067

310-553-2400
310-553-2675 (fax)